

Heber City Police Chief, Brother Resign

25 Feb 1985

By PATRICK CHRISTIAN
Herald Staff Writer

HEBER CITY — The Heber City Police Chief Bob Nelson and his brother, Don Nelson, the city animal control officer, have resigned.

The resignations came following a lengthy investigation of charges that the two were involved in incidents of public intoxication, contributing to the delinquency of minors and sexual behavior toward young women.

As part of an agreement to avoid prosecution, the brothers said they would not seek employment as law enforcement officers again.

In a settlement between the police officers and the Wasatch County attorneys the two agreed to their forced resignation in return for not being charged with any of a number of possible misdemeanor charges.

Wasatch County Sheriff Mike Spanos says the issue surfaced in his office in January.

"Some citizens came to my office alleging some wrongdoing," said Spanos. "We looked at their claims along with Wasatch County Attorney Joe Tesch and the county attorney asked us to conduct a thorough investigation."

Spanos said the investigation began Jan. 15 and eventually led to the resignations this morning.

"A mother and daughter and her foster daughter made statements to us about the Heber Police Department," Spanos said indicating that this was the event that led to the investigation.

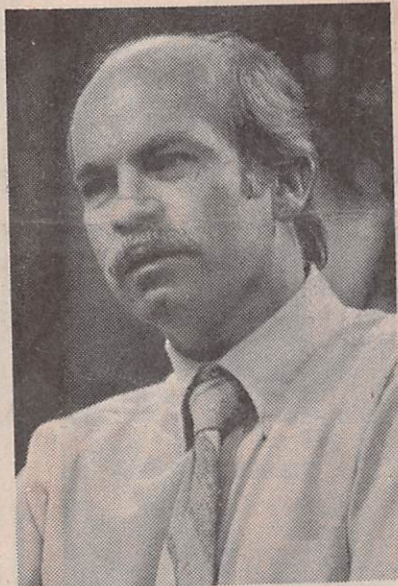
Spanos says the investigation included the entire police department, but said evidence seemed to be targeting the two Nelson brothers.

He said he has turned over his entire investigation file to Tesch.

The two Nelson brothers were suspended with pay last week by Heber City officials who refused to say any more than that there was an investigation stemming from citizen complaints.

The settlement reached with the Nelson brothers with the help of their attorney, Robert Van Sciver, calls for them not to re-enter the law enforcement field.

Spanos says he believes the coun-



Joe Tesch

ty's position not to charge the men with the misdemeanor charges is in the best interests of all the parties involved.

The settlement is expected to prevent any prolonged and expensive law suit.

Evidence obtained included allegations of driving while intoxicated, public intoxication providing alcohol to minors, carrying open containers of alcohol in vehicles and other allegations which might rather broadly be characterized as incidents of contributing to the delinquencies of minors, disorderly conduct and sexually oriented misbehavior towards young women.

Spanos said that the girls who testified were minors and said the sexual behavior bordered on felonious behavior.

The county attorney's statement reads:

"In response to citizen complaints the office of the Wasatch County Attorney directed the Wasatch County sheriff to fully and thoroughly investigate allegations of misconduct on the part of members of the Heber City Police Department. Specific allegations were made with regard to Chief of Police

(See HEBER: Page 3)

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HEBER: Settlement Agreed to by County

(Continued from Page 1)

Bobby Nelson and animal control officer Don Nelson of that department.

"Alleged incidents where credible evidence was developed included driving while intoxicated, public intoxication, providing alcohol to minors, carrying open containers of alcohol in vehicles and other allegations which might rather broadly be characterized as incidents of contributing to the delinquencies of minors, disorderly conduct and sexually-oriented misbehavior towards young women.

"While one of the alleged conducts amounts to felonious behavior, it is nonetheless particularly reprehensible when performed by peace officers whether or not in the course of their official duties.

"Because of the staleness of several of the allegations, certain items of ordinary evidence are lacking, such as there is no testable alcoholic beverage, no blood samples for testing, recollections are imprecise, etc.

"These inefficiencies, while not rendering prosecution impossible, do lower the probability of ultimate convictions upon trial.

"It is the view of the office of the Wasatch County Attorney that the interests of the citizens of Wasatch County are best served by a proce-

dures which provides assurance that these officers cannot in the future serve in any law enforcement capacity. Therefore, we have negotiated a resolution between the office of the Wasatch County Attorney and Robert Van Sciver, attorney for Bobby Nelson and Don Nelson as follows: 'It is our understanding that Heber City based upon the allegations developed in the course of the investigation intends to and will in fact terminate the employment of both officers for cause. Both Bobby Nelson and Don Nelson agree to accept discharge from employment with Heber City for cause and will not appeal or otherwise contest this action in any matter. Information concerning the facts surrounding the termination for cause will then be available to any other law enforcement agency should they at any time in the future seek re-employment in this profession. In return the office of the Wasatch County Attorney agrees not to prosecute with regard to any of the matters which have surfaced in the course of this investigation. Likewise, the results of the investigation have been reviewed by John L. Chidester, Heber City Attorney, and it is our understanding that the Heber City Council and the Heber City Attorney concur in this resolution.

the national championship tournament is not only good for Timpview spirit, but for the community and the cheerleaders individually.

"The whole reason for competition is it helps the girls do their best, and so it helps them in all other areas too."

The cheerleaders spent the past four months earning nearly \$6,000 for the trip by organizing various

Paige Bateman, Kristi Ross, Kiana Hooker.

Sponsors are Sundance Ski Resort, Dean & Peay Construction Co., Sargent MSG, Steve Clifford Motors, Far West Bank, Computerland, Berg Mortuary, University Lincoln-Mercury, Jones Paint and Glass, Educational Design, Bill Brown Realty, Maetex Supply, First Security Bank, and Bullock and Losee Jewelers.

es Seeking ld Eagle

The motive for the theft is not clear. According to Chindgren, there is a blackmarket value for bald eagle parts such as feathers and talons. "We hope this is not the motive of this theft," said Chindgren.

Division of Wildlife Resource non-game manager, Dennis Shirley, explains,



"Federal laws with fines and penalties of up to one year in jail and \$10,000 are designed to protect bald eagles. Since they are endangered and a national symbol there is also a National Bald Eagle Act designed to protect

Graduate Featured On Poster

By NORLEY HALL

Springville Correspondent

SPRINGVILLE — A recent graduate of the Stevens-Henager College of Business will be featured on a poster for the next month as an example of the successful transition from the college world to the actual world of work.

Scott Green, a programmer-analyst for the Professional Application Programmers Corporation was selected for the feature, "because of his academic record, at-



Craig Green